



International Civil Aviation Organization

**FOURTH MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION GROUP
(APAC-AIG/4)**

Tokyo, Japan, 1-2 September 2016

Agenda Item 4: Regional Cooperation

OBSERVER ATTACHMENT TO AAIB INVESTIGATION

(Presented by Macao, China)

SUMMARY

This paper highlights the recent observer attachment to Air Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) of Singapore SQ368 investigations from 30 June to 1 July 2016.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Singapore Airlines Flight SQ368, a Boeing 777-300ER operating from Singapore to Milan, returned to Singapore on 27 June 2016 following an engine oil warning message. The aircraft's right engine caught fire after the aircraft touched down at Changi Airport at around 06:50 local time. The fire was put out by airport emergency services and there was no injury to the 22 passengers and 19 crew members on board.

1.2 The AAIB is responsible for investigating aviation accidents in Singapore and has initiated an investigation into this occurrence. In order to gain experience in accident investigation, the Civil Aviation Authority of Macau (AACM) made a request to AAIB for accommodating AACM officers to observe the investigation. Shortly after, the AAIB accepted our request and agreed to accommodate up to two AACM officers as observers. The two AACM officers were deployed to Singapore on the next day in order to catch the most critical period of the investigation.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 During the two-day attachment, the AACM officers were able to observe the process of typical daily investigation work, including the morning meeting, aircraft inspection, FDR analysis, laboratory test, debriefing. By working with a team of experienced investigators with different expertise, a lot of technical knowledge learned from classroom training could be exercised in real life.

2.2 Besides technical and investigation knowledge, other key issues experienced and observed regarding administrative and logistic, investigation process, personal protective equipment and investigation equipment are also very important. After the attachment, we shared the following logistic issues and observations within our organization for better preparation for our local or overseas investigations:

- Expedite the ad-hoc travel reservation process
- Insurance coverage
- Over time compensation arrangement

- Secure store room or space for evidence / wreckage
- Meeting room can accommodate 15 to 20 investigators equipped with projector/ screen and Internet Wi-Fi.
- Personal Protective Equipment and investigation equipment

2.3 It was realized that being a government agency in Macau, the existing administrative procedures are not catered for ad-hoc issues arising during investigations especially for overseas investigations that need to deploy immediately. This is a good exercise for us to identify what need to be arranged to deal with this situations.

2.4 In conclusion, investigation attachments are beneficial to the observers and their organizations in the followings aspects:

- Improve technical and investigation knowledge
- Improve investigation management skill
- Chances to meet and work with investigators from different organizations
- Identify and prepare logistic arrangements
- Identify and replenish equipment needed

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The Meeting is invited to note the benefits of observer attachment and encourage supporting this arrangement.

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